

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed August 25, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for Continued Examination*. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on April 12, 2000; June 17, 2002; July 17, 2002; August 14, 2002; January 27, 2003; August 21, 2003; December 8, 2003; June 1, 2004; November 26, 2004; December 17, 2004; May 25, 2005; November 25, 2005; December 1, 2005; and May 30, 2006.

A further Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith and consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested.

Paragraph 3 of the Official Action continues to request the Applicant's cooperation in correcting any errors of which the Applicant may become aware in the specification. In response to a previous request, in the *Amendment* filed May 25, 2005, the specification was amended to correct minor typographical errors. The Applicant will correct any further errors in the specification of which the Applicant becomes aware.

Claims 1-14, 25-38 and 51-64 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. The Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of the allowability of each of dependent claims 3, 7 and 11 and the allowance of claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 25-38 and 51-64 (page 5, Paper No. 20060812).

Paragraphs 5-7 of the Official Action rejects claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 as obvious based on the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,259,138 to Ohtani, U.S. Patent No. 6,288,413 to Kamiura and JP 408274336 to Toshiba (English Translation) (originally cited as "JP 08-274336" in the IDS filed July 17, 2002), either alone or in combination with S. Wolf, Silicon Processing, 1990, Lattice Press, Volume 2, page 398 or Peter Van Zant, Microchip Fabrication, 2000, McGraw-Hill, Fourth Edition, page 391.

In response and in accordance with the statement of allowed subject matter (Id.), independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable features of dependent claim 3. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite that a first conductive film comprises one of tantalum nitride ad titanium nitride and a second conductive film comprises tungsten. Therefore, independent claim 1, as amended, recites allowable subject matter, and the above-referenced rejections are believed to be moot. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4-14, 25-38 and 51-64 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 2, 25, 26, 51 and 52 are independent, and all of which are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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